

End-to-End Young Driver Training Program – Collie Expansion

Background

In 2019-20, the Department of Justice successfully obtained funding to pilot an end-to-end drivers licensing program to be delivered in Bunbury (South West WA). The pilot aimed to target disadvantaged and disengaged young people by teaching them basic driving skills, in order to help them obtain their motor driver's licence and to develop positive, safe attitudes towards driving, and improve their overall quality of life.

The Bunbury pilot is being delivered by Investing in Our Youth (IIOY), a not-for-profit organisation in partnership with the Department of Justice and the South West Development Commission (SWDC). The SWDC has contributed its own funds for a number of program places connected to the Withers (Urban) Renewal project and has a defined role in the program governance arrangements. The pilot program aims to also establish connections with a range of organisations and providers to increase independent life skills, mental health supports, community participation, and employment opportunities for participants. The program enrolled 44 participants in the first 12 months of the program with 23 young people having practical lessons in a motor vehicle.

Proposal Purpose

The proposal to expand the South West End-to-End Licensing Program into Collie has come from approaches and support in the Collie community, local Police, Collie PCYC, South West Youth Justice Services, circuit Magistrate, Collie Community Service Organisations, the local Driving School (Alert Driving), RoadWise, and the local Industry Road Safety Alliance.

South West Development Commission is managing the grant for the current Bunbury End to End program and has acknowledged the incredible success we have had, and the need for more support and expansion into the Greater South West.

While the practical and most visible output / outcome is the attainment of a motor driver's licence, the driver education and training aspect is being utilised to increase a young person's employment prospects, economical contribution, and independence increasing their ability to access formal mental health supports, reduce/remove their risk of re/offending, and reengaging them in their communities.

Proposal Description

The target group is youth in Collie who:

- meet the minimum age requirements to apply for a Learner's Permit up to 25 years old; and
- are in contact or at risk of coming into contact with legal and justice systems

The program will accommodate approx. 20 participants per year. Participants must be referred by Justice support systems (YJS, Magistrate, Police), local High Schools, Mental Health services, Job Active Providers, and Community Support organisations.

Proposed Key Outcomes

- Increased employment opportunities for young people who learn responsible driving skills and gain a driver's licence.
- Young people that graduate gain independence and the ability to engage locally as positive contributing community members .
- Young people will reduce/remove their risk of coming into contact with, and remaining engaged in legal and justice systems.

Anticipated Activities

A targeted end-to-end driver licensing program (i.e. from obtaining a learner's permit to full P plates) for approximately 20 referred youth, overseen by a dedicated program coordinator and support officer. The support officer would be a point of contact for the local service provider partners and referral agencies.

The end-to-end licensing program will include the direct involvement of referral agencies to support young people as much as possible. Young people referred through the schools will only be able to participate in the program outside of school hours and be required to demonstrate sustained positive behaviours and regular attendance in order to retain their place in the program. During the program regular contact will be made with the young person and the IIOY staff person. The IIOY staff person will also maintain regular contact with the referring agency to manage the progress of the young person, as necessary.

The program will utilise IIOY's existing links and networks in Collie and the South West. IIOY has a solid track record in undertaking this type of work as it already delivers this element through *The HIPPY Program*. Existing links include Community Mental Health, TAFE, Jobs SW, JobActive, Headspace, all major employers in the Collie area (South 32, Synergy etc.) as well as Shire of Collie and many other smaller organisations. As an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, IIOY will link into networking sessions to raise awareness of the program and the opportunity for member organisations to employ program graduates.

The program will have the following structure with the potential for multiple entry points, depending on whether a young person needs to access the full program (modules 1 to 6) or part(s) of the program (e.g. funded professional driving lessons) 1*:

Module 1 Keys 4 Life: this course (developed by SDERA) could utilise the Keys 4 Life online program (<https://www.sdera.wa.edu.au/resources/secondary-resources/keys-4-life-online>) that was recently developed for consumers with low literacy or English as a second language.

This would provide a gateway for young people to receive their learners using a well-evidenced and rigorous road safety program, whilst taking into account academic and/or intellectual limitations.

Module 2 Assisting young people, where necessary, to obtain the relevant ID documents (e.g. birth certificate). [NB In some instances, the cost of ID documents would be paid for through the program. Refer to attached budget]

Module 3 (Funded) professional driving lessons with accredited driving schools. The current Keys 2 Drive session (<https://www.keys2drive.com.au>), which teaches both the young learner and driving mentor, could also be utilised.

Module 4 Participation in SW RYDE (<https://ryde.org.au>) 2*, which matches volunteer mentors from the local community with learners to obtain their 50 hours of supervised driving practice.

Module 5 (Funded) Hazard Perception Test.

Module 6 (Funded) Practical Driving Assessment.

1* The stages for getting a full driver's licence in Western Australia involve getting a learner's permit by passing a theory test; completing 50 hours of supervised driving; passing a computer based hazard perception test; passing a practical driving assessment; getting a provisional licence (P plates); and displaying P plates for two years.

2* RYDE recently won the YMCA Organisational Achievement Award – Large at the WA Youth Awards: <https://www.yacwa.org.au/major-events/wa-youth-awards-2018/finalists>